CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor American Naturalist:

In the July number of the *American Naturalist*, among his "Notes on the Cœlenterate Fauna of Woods Hole," Dr. C. W. Hargitt has defined what he considers to be a new species of tubularian hydroid, under the name of *Tubularia parasitica*. During the past summer I have been enabled to observe the development of the western representative of the genus *Corymorpha*, *C. palma*, a few facts concerning which will show, I think, that *T. parasitica* is but a young form of the *pendula* on which it was growing. It has seemed best that attention should be called to this at once to prevent future inconvenience to taxonomists.

As with *C. pendula*, the medusæ of *C. palma* are permanently attached. The eggs arise on the manubrium, break through the ectoderm when ripe, and, in quiet water, settle at once to the bottom. The egg case is adhesive, fastening to the first object with which it comes in contact. Many eggs are dropped at the same time, and often cling to the rootlets of the parent hydroid, where *T. parasitica* was found. There is no free larval stage. The embryo is able, however, to change its location very slowly, leaving a trail of perisarc behind it. Such a movement accounts for the clusters of six or eight individuals which are commonly found adhering to each other near their bases. The stem has a single central canal at first, as in Tubularia. The peduncles which support the medusæ appear very early. When there are not more than eight proximal tentacles, buds arise on the base of the hydroid and develop into rootlets. They are the structures, I suspect, which Dr. Hargitt has taken for "absorbent organs."

The young Corymorpha further agrees with *T. parasitica* in size, number of tentacles, and general aspect.

I shall describe the development of *C. palma* more fully in another connection.

HARRY BEAL TORREY.

ZOÖLOGICAL LABORATORY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
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